

8<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am so sorry that we have not yet been able to welcome your children back into school. As a staff team, we have been working from home, using Teams to meet and undertake training in a range of areas, including supporting children with ADHD, PDA and other needs. It is very important to me that we as staff all use this time to be as productive and effective as possible; however, we would much rather be in school with your children - we are missing them.

I was at the school site early yesterday morning to evaluate the situation with Mr. Renicor and have been back there today with Mrs. Linfoot. I want to say an official and **huge** thank you to Mr. Renicor, who has done an amazing job on our site. He has worked incredibly hard to clear pathways and to try and make the grounds safer - an enormous task. We are very lucky to have him.

In addition to the hard work done by Mr. Renicor, Mrs. Mallinson, our School Business Manager, has managed to secure a team who will come to school tomorrow to scrape the driveway and car park; they will then follow this with gritting. This is going to be a great help and will definitely help the thawing process.

I have spent considerable time today debating the decision about opening tomorrow. As you will be aware, the main roads are clear, but pavements and side roads are still dangerous. Parking at school remains impossible and Mrs. Linfoot and I had a challenging walk in the streets near to school. Whereas Mr. Renicor's work has made the site much safer than it was, there is nothing we can do about the surrounding area. I am also very mindful of the stress for you as parents, both in travelling to school or looking after your children at home after a two-week holiday. It would always be my preference to have our pupils in school, but I must also be mindful of the safety for all concerned. With the temperatures due to be very low tonight, the situation is unlikely to be very different to today.

Taking all of this into account and having discussed this with my senior staff team, I have decided that we will move our INSET day from June 27<sup>th</sup> to tomorrow. This means that the children can be safe at home tomorrow and will not miss a day's learning, as this will be put in on that later date.

I do hope that this decision will be the best outcome for the children in these challenging circumstances and that we are able to welcome them back into school as soon as possible.

We will communicate further tomorrow.



Jo Hall  
Headteacher